

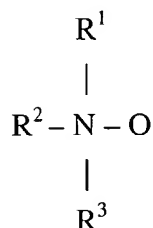
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a polyurethane foam or polyurea foam by conversion of

- (A) compounds containing at least two isocyanate groups with
- (B) ~~compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms, wherein the compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms comprise one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of:~~
polyols, polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polythioether polyols, polyester amides, polyether polyamines, ~~polyacetals containing hydroxyl groups, aliphatic polycarbonates containing hydroxyl groups and water,~~
- (C) in the presence of one or more catalysts, wherein at least one of the catalysts is an amine oxide and/or comprises at least one amine oxide group,
-wherein during the course of the reaction a reaction temperature of 50 °C is exceeded to an extent that at least one residue attached to the N-atom of the amine-N oxide group is eliminated by cope elimination, and
-wherein the amine-N oxide has three residues that comprise no more than 8 carbon atoms and optionally heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, and
-wherein the amine-N oxide has at least one residue linked to the nitrogen atom having a β -hydrogen atom.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the amine oxide has the following structure (I)



in which R¹, R² and R³ independently of each other are linear or branched hydrocarbon residues with 1 to 8 carbon atoms and/or said R¹, R² and R³ comprises full or part cyclic structures and/or contain heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur.

Claim 16 (previously added) The process according to claim 15, wherein at least one of said R¹, R², R³, independently of each other, is ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or tertiary butyl.

Claim 17 (previously added) The process according to claim 15, wherein said amine oxide comprises at least one of said residue linked to the nitrogen atom having a β -hydrogen atom.

Claim 18 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein the amine oxide is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine-N-oxide, N-ethylmorpholine-N-oxide, N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide, diethyloctylamine-N-oxide, dimethylcyclohexylamine-N-oxide, ethyldicyclohexylamine-N-oxide, N,N,N',N'-tetraethyl-bisaminoethyl ether-di-N,N'-oxide, diethylcyclohexylamine-N-oxide and diethylpiperazine-N-oxide.

Claim 19 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein the amine oxide is used at 0.01 to 5 % by weight based on the weight of compounds with reactive hydrogen atoms used.

Claim 20 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein said compound containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms comprises a polyether with at least two free hydroxy groups.

Claim 21 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, further comprising employing metal salts of organic compounds as catalysts.

Claim 22 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein beside the amine-N-oxide catalysts no tertiary amine catalysts are used.

Claim 23 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein besides the amine-N-oxides no further polyurethane/polyurea catalysts are used.

Claim 24 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein during the course of the reaction a reaction temperature of 50 °C is exceeded.

Claim 25 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, wherein during the course of the reaction a reaction temperature of 130°C is exceeded.

Claim 26 (previously added) The process according to claim 14, further comprising adding one or more surfactants as foam stabilizers to the reaction mixture.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The process according to claim 26, wherein the foam stabilizers stabilizer is a silicone.

Claim 28 (currently amended) ~~Use of an amine-N-oxide or a compound comprising at least one amide N-oxide group as a catalyst~~ A process for manufacturing a polyurethane polymers foam or a polyurea foam by comprising reacting

(A) compounds containing at least two isocyanate groups with

(B) compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms,

(C) in the presence of one or more catalysts, and

wherein the amine-oxide comprises at least one of the catalysts is an amine-N- oxide and/or comprises at least one amine-N-oxide group,

wherein during the course of the reaction a reaction temperature of 50 °C is exceeded to an extent that at least one residue attached to the N-atom of the amine-N-oxide group is eliminated by cope elimination, and

wherein the amine-N-oxide has at least one residue linked to the nitrogen atom having a β -hydrogen atom and the reaction temperature during the course of the reaction exceeds a temperatures of 50°C.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The process Use according to claim 28, wherein the reaction temperature during the course of the reaction exceeds a temperature of 130°C.

Claim 30 (new) The process according to Claim 28, wherein the amine-N oxide has three substituents that each comprise no more than 8 carbon atoms and optionally heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur.

Claim 31 (new) The process according to Claim 28 further comprising employing metal salts of organic compounds as a catalyst.

Claim 32 (new) The process according to Claim 31, wherein the metal salt of the organic compounds comprises a tin salt of an organic compound.

Claim 33 (new) The process according to Claim 32 wherein said tin salt of an organic compound comprises a tin mercaptide.

Claim 34 (new) The process according to Claim 14, wherein the compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms comprise one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of:

polyols, polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polythioether polyols, polyester amides, polyether polyamines, polyacetals containing hydroxyl groups, aliphatic polycarbonates containing hydroxyl groups and water.

Claim 35 (new) The process according to Claim 21, wherein the metal salt of the organic compounds comprises a tin salt of an organic compound.

Claim 36 (new) The process according to Claim 35 wherein said tin salt of an organic compound comprises a tin mercaptide compound.